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File No. 48

pp. 4989 - 5177

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1947 151 31 E5001 148/C	Palestine EASTERN	E5001 /G 2
F.O Memo Received 11 June	Illegal immigration Brief for meeting of ministers on June 9	
Last Paper. E4947	(Minutes.) See within 1. Mr Luke commd 7 June 18 June 12	
References.	2. IIP(47) 26 (Minutes of 11 June)	
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.) Tel) to Gen 5438 11 June 8) IIP June 16 25) Chancery to Gen Paris Brussels The Hague Rome Stockholm Copenhagen Lisbon Athens (Action completed.) 25 11/6 30 June 11/6	The conclusions of the meeting of Ministers held at the Foreign Office on June 9th (Gen. 180/3rd Meeting) contained two recommendations for action by the Foreign Office. The first of these, a suggestion that we should ask Washington to look into the present position in regard to the subscription of funds by American trades unions for the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic, has been met by Foreign Office telegram No. 5738 to Washington of June 11th.  The second recommendation is that the Secretary of State should address personal letters to the Foreign Ministers of the countries concerned in order to secure the full co-operation of their Governments in the suppression of the illegal immigrant traffic. I have consulted the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration in order to establish a list of the countries to which we should address ourselves on this subject and we agreed on the following:-  United States } France } Principally concerned Italy }  Greece } In connexion with the organisation of illegal immigrant shipping.  Netherlands } Belgium } In regard both to the departure of illegal immigrants and the provision and bunkering of shipping.  Sweden/	
Next Paper. (5588)	30471 F.O.P.	

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Sweden }  
Denmark }  
Portugal }

Mainly concerned with the delaying  
of shipping and the denial of  
bunkers.

The Committee thought that, although Yugoslavia and Roumania might again in the future become transit areas for the traffic, the fact that there had been no recent flow from there, coupled with the doubtful friendship of their Governments, made it undesirable for the Secretary of State to address a letter to their Foreign Ministers. *Not did they wish to include Panama and Honduras, who are cooperating quite well as regards registration.*

Owing to the difference of degree to which the various countries are involved in the traffic, the draft letters have had to be phrased in several cases on different lines. Mr. Higham of the Colonial Office, one of the joint secretaries of the Official Committee on Illegal Immigration, has seen and agreed the drafts for the Committee.

*Flag and are only concerned with this aspect of the shipping problem*

*Mr Beeky 13.2/6*  
Private Sec.

*D. S. Beith*

17th June, 1947.

(BEITH)

*W. H. M. 23/6*

*MJ*

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Minutes.

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A meeting of ministers has been arranged for 3.30 pm. on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Could you please submit a brief to the S of S, and let us have it by noon on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June?  
RDC McAlpine  
5/6.

Brief submitted

\*H. S. (Beim)  
June 7  
(BEITIT)

R. J. arman

7/6

MB. B. B.  
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Minutes.

E5001/48/89

Private Secretary.

At yesterday's meeting on Jewish illegal immigration, the Secretary of State informed his colleagues that according to his information subscriptions to Jewish appeals for funds from American Trades Union sources were drying up. He asked me to enquire the position of Washington and I submit a telegram.

J.G.S. Beith

J.G.S. Beith.

June 10th, 1947.

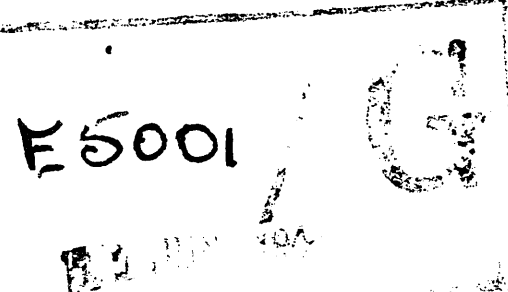
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BRIEF FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE  
MEETING OF MINISTERS ON JEWISH ILLEGAL  
IMMIGRATION TO BE HELD AT 3.30 P.M.

ON MONDAY, JUNE 9th.

The following papers have been prepared by the Official Committee and will be taken by Ministers.

(a) A Progress Report (GEN.180/3)

(b) A paper on the question of introducing legislation to enable suspected ships to be held in harbour (GEN.180/5)

(c) A paper on propaganda to the Jews in Europe to counter Zionist propaganda (GEN.180/4)

(d) A paper on the question of returning illegal immigrants to the country of embarkation (GEN.180/6)

MB

(a) - The Progress Report - has been agreed by the Official Committee, on which all departments concerned are represented, and the only detail which requires amendment is the last sentence of paragraph 13 (American collaboration). Eastern Department learnt after the report was prepared that Sir Orme Sargent finally decided not to send in to Mr. Douglas a short brief with cuttings prepared by H.M. Embassy in Washington, since it was out of date in relation to the facts quoted during Sir Orme Sargent's interview with the Ambassador.

As regards the section on France (paragraphs 7 to 9) I should mention that, although we have been somewhat disappointed by the attitude of the French authorities in regard to controlling the traffic, there have been no recent departures of illegal immigrant vessels, either loaded or in ballast, from France. Apart from their refusal to take back illegal immigrants who reach Palestine from France the French authorities have made difficulties about clearing with us the visas of final destination of parties leaving France and the nominal rolls of such parties. The Embassy still hope to secure a satisfactory arrangement of these last two points. We feel that there is some likelihood that the traffic from France will now dry up and that the French authorities, in spite of their unwillingness to tie themselves down, will in fact now take effective measures against the traffic. In any case the best course seems to be to watch the situation closely and, should the French lapse again, make further strong representations leaving them in no doubt that we regard the continuance in the traffic as an unfriendly act on the part of France. The French can stop the traffic if they will. The Italians on the other hand are ill equipped to do so.

(b) - Powers to detain suspect ships - contains recommendations in paragraph 14 which meet the requirements of the Foreign Office. It strengthens the hand of this department in making representations to foreign governments if we can point to powers which we ourselves have taken to detain ships or otherwise embarrass the organizers of the traffic. The Governor of Gibraltar has already taken such

powers, /

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(c) - Propaganda to prevent Jews in Europe from falling into illegal immigration channels - states a conclusion and recommendation in which Eastern Department concur. There are two principal objections to our setting up a new organization for "black" propaganda designed to turn back the Jewish exodus from Eastern Europe. First this is a measure of political warfare which it is hardly desirable for us to adopt at a moment when the whole Palestine question is sub judice with the United Nations and, secondly, the results of such a campaign could only be long-term and are not likely to be great. The Jews are being impelled to emigrate by a strong feeling of uncertainty about their future in Europe and a fanatical nationalism. It is not clear that we have the material for effective counter propaganda to these inducements.

On the legal aspects, the second Legal Adviser has given it as his opinion that we should distinguish between the extent to which we can argue that a country should receive back illegal immigrants and the extent to which we are entitled to enforce our view by taking the immigrants back and dumping them in the country of departure. Mr. Fitzmaurice thinks that we have a fairly strong, though not an absolutely clear, legal case for representing that these people should be taken back. On the other hand this is very different from our being entitled to take action of an enforcement character. States have been known to fail to fulfil their obligations but this does not mean that one is entitled to take forcible action to compel them to do so. A British transport carrying back illegal immigrants could enter an Italian port but, if the local authorities refused to let the passengers land, there would be nothing to do except to take them away again. (N.B. The War Office have asked whether a British ship could legally enter Italian territorial waters with an armed guard on board. The answer is that if the guard were taking back Jews with the consent of the Italian

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Government it would presumably have permission to enter territorial waters and, if not, the action of forcibly returning Jews would be far more drastic than the proposal at issue, which would therefore in practice not arise.)

On the political aspect of the question, it seems evident that we should not return Jews by force or stealth to Italy, which would be an act of force out of proportion to the culpability of the Italian Government in failing to prevent the departure of these Jews (they originate in central Europe and are only in Italy as a country of transit). Nevertheless it is important to establish the principle that such people can be returned and our logical action would appear to be to press the Italians strongly on an ad hoc basis, when the next case arises, to take illegal immigrants back. Sir Noel Charles thinks that the Italians will refuse unless we can arrange for the Jews to be conducted back through Italy to Germany, which is hardly feasible. (It would involve securing the consent of the U.S. zonal authorities of Germany and Austria to our conducting the Jews back there through Italy.)

The question for decision is whether we should proceed to extremes in forcing the Italians to receive back illegal immigrant Jews. The agreed recommendation of Eastern Department, Western Department and the Legal Adviser on this point is as follows:

- (a) We should not return illegal immigrants by force or stealth to Italy against the will of the Italian Government. Before taking such action we should have to be quite clear that we ourselves had done absolutely everything within our own power to prevent the traffic. In this connexion it should be remarked that we have not mined Palestine waters and that Ministers recently decided not to intercept illegal immigrant vessels with the consent of the flag state, which we could legally do.
- (b) On the first occasion that we have definite proof that a shipload of Jewish illegal immigrants have embarked from Italy, we should press the Italian Government very strongly to take them back. There may indeed be a basis for action in the case of ships which have recently arrived in Palestine from South Italy. We could promise the Italian Government our support with the various refugee organisations to see that returned Jews are looked after: moreover the Italian Government can always insist on this with whatever refugee organisations are receiving hospitality in Italy.
- (c) The legal basis of our representations should be clearly stated to the Italian Government in such a way as to build up as far as possible a "doctrine" regarding refoulement which we could ask other countries to accept and for which if necessary we could seek the confirmation of the United Nations.

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FOREIGN SECRETARY

There has been no meeting of Ministers about illegal immigration since the meeting on 13th May (GEN. 180/2nd Meeting), but the Official Committee have continued their work.

2. The Official Committee have now prepared the following papers for consideration by Ministers:-

- (a) A Progress Report (GEN. 180/3)
- (b) A paper on the question of introducing legislation to enable suspected ships to be held in harbour (GEN. 180/5)
- (c) A paper on propaganda to the Jews in Europe to counter Zionist propaganda (GEN. 180/4)
- (d) A paper on the question of returning illegal immigrants to the country of embarkation (GEN. 180/6)

3. It would be convenient if a meeting to deal with these papers could be held early next week. Do you think that we might try to arrange a meeting at 3.30 p.m. on Monday, 9th June?

J.E.V. Luke

4th June, 1947.

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legislative programme, to find time for such a Bill in the present Session.

6. You will no doubt wish to ask the Minister of Transport and the First Lord of the Admiralty for their views on the Committee's proposal.

7. The third item is a Memorandum by the Official Committee (GEN. 180/4) on the subject of propaganda to Jews in Europe. At the last meeting you endorsed the line proposed by the Official Committee. Since then they have been carefully into the difficulties of conducting a full scale propaganda drive to counter the stories of milk and honey put out by the Zionists. While they recognise that it may be difficult to reach Jews in Europe by press and radio, they do not think it worth while to set up the elaborate machinery necessary to control clandestine propaganda.

8. The last item is a Note by the Joint Secretary of the Official Committee (GEN. 180/6) on the return of illegal immigrants to Italy. The Note covers a telegram (Annex II) from H.M. Ambassador at Rome expressing the opinion that the Italian Government would react strongly against any attempt on our part to force them to accept back immigrants proved to have embarked in Italy. The question therefore arises whether, and how, we could force the Italians to accept them back.

9. This is a matter to which the Official Committee attaches great importance for they consider that to return some of the immigrants to Europe would be "by far the most effective single counter stroke".

10. The points raised are mainly matters for the Foreign Office, but you will, no doubt, wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Minister of Transport and the First Lord of the Admiralty about the practical side of returning a ship-load of immigrants.

11. Accommodation for Illegal Immigrants. You may wish to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with reference to the previous discussion (GEN. 180/2nd Meeting, Minute 2) what is the present position about extending the capacity of the Cyprus and Palestine camps.

J. E. V. Luke

7th June, 1947

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

Despatched M.

June, 1947.

IMPORTANT

Jewish illegal immigration.

Telegram 5738

I am informed that ~~As a result of our~~

Date ~~5-78~~ .....

~~recent representations leading up to~~  
~~President Trump's statement~~ there has

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been a falling off in the subscription of funds for Jewish illegal immigration amongst American Trades Unions, and that this source may possibly is likely to dry up altogether.

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Private Sec. Unit

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CABINET

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF MINISTERS  
held on Monday, 9th June, 1947.

Note by the Secretary

The attached record of a Meeting of Ministers  
held on Monday, 9th June, 1947, will be placed on the  
Agenda for the meeting of the Illegal Immigration  
Committee to be held on FRIDAY, 13TH JUNE.

(Signed) W. EVERSLED.

Cabinet Office, S.W.1.

11TH JUNE, 1947.

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The Rt. H.  
M.P.,

The Rt. H.  
First L.

Sir Thomas  
Colonial

Mr. J.M. M.  
Colonial

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GEN. 180/3rd Meeting

CABINET

PALESTINE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

MINUTES of a Meeting of Ministers held in the  
Foreign Secretary's Room, Foreign Office, S.W.1.,  
on MONDAY, 9TH JUNE, 1947, at 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

The Rt. Hon. Ernest Bevin, M.P.,  
Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs. (In the Chair)

The Rt. Hon. A.V. Alexander, M.P., Minister of Defence  
The Rt. Hon. A. Creech Jones, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty  
The Rt. Hon. F.J. Bellenger, M.P., Secretary of State for War

The Rt. Hon. Alfred Barnes, M.P.,  
Minister of Transport

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:

Sir Thomas Lloyd,  
Colonial Office

Sir Frank Newsam,  
Home Office

Mr. J.M. Martin,  
Colonial Office

Mr. J.G.S. Beith,  
Foreign Office

Mr. W.V.J. Evans,  
Foreign Office

SECRETARIAT

Mr. S.E.V. Luke  
Commander W. Evershed

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1. PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE  
(Previous Reference: GEN. 180/2nd Meeting, Minute 1)

The Committee considered a Progress Report by the Chairman of the Official Illegal Immigration Committee (GEN. 180/3) on the measures taken against illegal immigration since the last meeting of the Ministerial Committee.

The Committee were satisfied that substantial success had been achieved in recent weeks in controlling this traffic by the combination of strong diplomatic pressure and administrative obstruction.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY thought that President Truman's recent statement condemning terrorism and illegal immigration would have a marked effect on the supply of funds which would be forthcoming for the traffic in the United States. For instance, he understood that substantial contributions had hitherto been made by the trade unions in the United States but that, in view of the President's statement, these contributions would probably now cease. It would be advisable to enquire into this point.

The Committee:-

- (1) Took note, with approval, of the Progress Report by the Chairman of the Official Committee.
- (2) Invited the Foreign Secretary to ascertain from His Majesty's Ambassador in Washington whether contributions were being made by the trade unions in the United States towards the illegal immigration traffic.

2. POWERS TO DETAIN SUSPECTED SHIPS

The Committee considered a memorandum by the Official Committee (GEN. 180/5) recommending that legislation should be introduced in the United Kingdom to enable ships of foreign registration, suspected of being concerned in the illegal immigration traffic, to be detained in United Kingdom ports.

The Official Committee pointed out that there were serious objections on grounds of principle to the enactment of such legislation. Firstly, the giving of directions to detain a particular ship would have to be in exercise of arbitrary powers of the Executive, since we should be dealing only with ships suspected of being about to engage in illegal traffic. It would follow that it would probably be necessary to exclude by the Bill any right of recourse to the Courts. Secondly, it might clearly be most damaging to our interests as a maritime nation to establish a precedent for such arbitrary executive action against ships of a foreign flag. Against these objections account had to be taken of the grave risk that, if one suspected ship were to leave a British port and thereafter to engage in the illegal immigration traffic, all our efforts to persuade foreign Governments to prevent such ships from leaving their harbours would almost certainly be nullified. The Official Committee had reached the conclusion that the last consideration was a decisive argument in favour of legislation on the lines recommended.

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The Committee were impressed by the strength of the objections to the enactment of such legislation to which the Official Committee had drawn attention in their memorandum; in particular, they felt that legislation of this nature would establish a precedent which might prove a grave embarrassment in the future, without securing compensating advantages for the immediate purpose of checking the traffic. Few of the suspected ships were in practice likely to use United Kingdom ports, and it was by no means certain that the enactment of such legislation would call forth any greater degree of co-operation from foreign Governments. In the circumstances, the Committee thought that we should continue to rely on the maintenance of firm diplomatic pressure on the foreign Governments concerned, and on harassing the traffic by such administrative expedients as were possible.

SIR FRANK NEWSAM said that it was not possible to detain ships in harbour for an indefinite period by administrative measures. In any event, such measures had no legal support, and there was a serious risk that action might be taken in the Courts to secure redress.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY thought that too much importance ought not to be attached to the legal risks involved in administrative action. Indeed, there might be a substantial advantage in the publicity which would be thrown on the illegal immigration traffic if a case should be taken to the Courts.

The Committee:-

Agreed that it would not be advisable to enact legislation to enable ships of foreign registration, suspected to be destined for the illegal immigration traffic, to be detained in United Kingdom ports.

### 3. APPEAL TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY said that one of the results of President Truman's statement would be that foreign Governments would be more ready to co-operate in measures against the illegal immigration traffic. It was clearly important, not only to maintain strong diplomatic pressure during the remaining months of the summer, but to take immediate advantage of the favourable situation created by the President's statement. He thought that it might be useful if he were to write personally to the Foreign Secretaries of the maritime countries concerned emphasising the nature of the traffic and urging them to afford all possible assistance in suppressing it.

The Committee:-

Invited the Foreign Secretary to make a personal appeal to the Foreign Secretaries of all interested countries in order to secure the full co-operation of their Governments in the suppression of the illegal immigration traffic.

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SIR THOMAS LLOYD said that such a campaign would comprise propaganda of two types - "white" propaganda, such as Press articles and radio talks, based on factual information; and "black" propaganda which would normally involve clandestine action and would not necessarily have strict regard for the facts. It was notorious that "black" propaganda might, unless most carefully directed and handled, prove most embarrassing to the Government. Before such propaganda could be undertaken, it would, therefore, be necessary to set up a competent organisation in London to direct it. This would necessarily take time; quick results could not be expected and nothing effective could be achieved before next October. Even if a decision by the United Nations had not then brought the illegal immigration traffic to an end, the autumn weather would do so.

It was generally agreed that it would not be advisable to set up at this stage the elaborate machinery necessary for controlling "black" propaganda. In discussion it was noted that the High Commissioner for Palestine had reported that there were some 5,000 Jews in Palestine who wished to return to Europe, and it was agreed that the possibility of giving publicity to this fact ought to be considered.

The Committee:-

- (1) Approved the recommendations made in paragraph 9 of GEN. 180/4.
- (2) Invited the Secretary of State for the Colonies to obtain confirmation of the number of Jews in Palestine wishing to return to Europe and to consider how this might best be given publicity.

5. RETURN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN  
(Previous Reference: GEN. 180/2nd Meeting, Minute 1)

The Committee considered a note by the Joint Secretary of the Official Committee (GEN. 180/6) covering a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador in Rome, expressing the view that the Italian Government would reject any proposal that illegal immigrants, who had sailed from an Italian port, should be readmitted to Italy.

In discussion, it was pointed out that the problem of returning a shipload of illegal immigrants was not comparable with the normal practice of refoulement, under which a ship that brought an immigrant without legal right of entry to this country was required to take him back again. The ships carrying illegal immigrants that arrived off the Palestine coast were generally unfit to make the return journey. This meant that the return of illegal immigrants to their country of embarkation could be effected only by towing back the ship in which they had arrived, or by transferring them to another

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ship. Both these courses involved practical and legal difficulties which required careful examination. Until these questions had been examined, it was not possible to reach a firm conclusion on the points raised by His Majesty's Ambassador.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY thought that we should not shrink from taking drastic action, if this was likely to be effective in suppressing the traffic. The British Government need not fear an appeal to an international tribunal on such an issue. Any opportunity for securing publicity about the nature of the traffic and our own efforts to cope with it would be welcome.

The Committee:-

Invited the First Lord of the Admiralty and the Minister of Transport to circulate a joint memorandum on the practical possibility of returning illegal immigrants to their countries of embarkation.

Cabinet Office, S.W.1.

10TH JUNE, 1947.

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20

Private Secretary

I think that these  
drafts arising out of  
the decision passed B.  
are good & that the  
S.G.S. will wish to  
sign them as early as  
possible.

If you agree will you  
do the necessary?

*MB*

I think that  
the S.G.S. ~~will~~ 24/vi  
need not see the drafts.  
PD. 24/6.

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Sent to Miss Dand (in Paris)  
for transmission to Embassy

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Registry  
No. E500

Top Secret  
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Confidential  
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Open

Drafts  
The Chair  
at:

Washington  
Paris  
Brussels  
The Hague  
Rome  
Stockholm  
Copenhagen  
Lisbon  
Athens

Letter to  
to be sent

J.D.  
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substance

*MB*



Sent to Mrs. David (in Paris)  
for transmission to Embassy

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Registry  
No. E5001/48/cr

~~Top Secret.~~  
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~~Draft~~ J.G.S.B.  
The Chanceries  
at:

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Brussels  
The Hague  
Rome  
Stockholm  
Copenhagen  
Lisbon  
Athens

Letter to M.F.A.  
to be sent OPEN

J.B. June 18  
in case Mrs. missions  
have a print of  
substance to raise

MM 23/6  
MB 24/6

OUT FILE

26<sup>th</sup> June, 1947.  
+ 0 cp/se

IMMEDIATE

Dear Chancery,

We send you herewith a personal  
letter from the Secretary of State to  
the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
country in which you reside, requesting  
the latter's full co-operation in  
preventing the Jewish illegal immigration  
traffic.

We shall be grateful if you will  
arrange to have this letter delivered  
as soon as possible.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

J.B. June 25

26<sup>th</sup>  
21

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22

CONFIDENTIAL  
IMMEDIATE

## Athens

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FO 371/61811

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Registry No. 2500148/9.

23

26<sup>th</sup> June, 1947.

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OUT FILE

PERSONAL

+ Dep't

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Draft J.G.S.B.  
Honorable George C.  
Marshall,  
Washington.

(From Secretary of State)

Lord Inverchapel will have told you of our grave concern at the persistent and successful attempts of Jewish organisations to send Jewish illegal immigrants to Palestine from various European countries and will have explained to you how much we regret that the funds for this illegal immigrant traffic are largely subscribed in the United States.

For this reason, H.M.G. have greatly valued the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly <sup>requesting</sup> ~~calling on~~ all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the <sup>which Trygve</sup> ~~publicity~~ Lie has given to Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government/

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NA <sup>copy</sup> ~~Sept. 1946~~

7 drafts  
JB. June 18

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E3219  
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M.B.  
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Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation from deteriorating still further? I should like to ask in particular that United States officials and representatives on charitable and refugee organisations in Europe should be ~~asked~~ <sup>requested</sup> to discourage the unauthorised movement of Jewish refugees leading to the departure of illegal immigrant ships for Palestine. My colleagues and I feel very strongly that the organisers of this traffic are not only endangering the peace and security of the Middle East but are now flouting the authority of the United Nations.

JB June 25

Yours sincerely,

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No. E 2

CONFIDENTIAL

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25  
27th June, 1947.

OUT FILE

No. E 5001/48/G.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~PERSONAL~~

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Lord Inverchapel will have told you of our grave concern at the persistent and successful attempts of Jewish organisations to send Jewish illegal immigrants to Palestine from various European countries and will have explained to you how much we regret that the funds for this illegal immigrant traffic are largely subscribed in the United States.

For this reason, His Majesty's Government have greatly valued the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Trygve Lie has given to Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

/May

His Excellency  
The Honourable  
George C. Marshall.

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Ernest Bevin

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Registry No. 2500148

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J.G.S.B.

His Excellency  
Mr. Georges  
Bidault,

(From Secretary  
of State)

Western Dept.

W.C.

MB

24/VI

PERSONAL

Dear Monsieur Bidault,

You may remember that I raised with you, during our stay in Moscow, the question of Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine, which has caused the Government of Palestine and H.M.G. very serious preoccupation during recent months. Representatives of H.M. Embassy at Paris and experts from the competent Departments in London were later able to discuss measures to control the traffic with French officials at the Quai d'Orsay on May 12th.

I should like to take this opportunity, when the efforts of those responsible for organising this dishonest traffic are at their peak, to thank you for the collaboration which H.M.G. have so far received from the French Government and to emphasise the importance which H.M.G. continue to attach to preventing illegal immigration. The French Government can help us by preventing the departure of illicit groups from the South of France without proper visas of destination ~~en route to Palestine~~, in an attempt to break the immigration laws of ~~that country~~ Palestine, and by discouraging the provision of shipping for the traffic. There is one ship in particular which is strongly suspected of being destined for illegal immigration and which has recently returned to the French port of Port de Bouc from/

26 June, 1947.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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*these people*  
traffic. ~~we~~ are using Jewish refugees as a  
means of exerting political pressure on the  
Government of Palestine at a moment when the  
future of that country is under consideration  
by the United Nations.

*I am sure that we can*  
~~May we~~ count upon the assistance of your  
Government in preventing the situation in  
Palestine from deteriorating still further *as a*  
*result of the continued flow of illegal*  
*immigrants.*

JB June 25

*Yours sincerely,*

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**



30

27th June, 1947.

CONFIDENTIAL

You may remember that I raised with you, during our stay in Moscow, the question of Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine, which has caused the Government of Palestine and His Majesty's Government very serious preoccupation during recent months. Representatives of His Majesty's Embassy at Paris and experts from the competent departments in London were later able to discuss measures to control the traffic with French officials at the Quai d'Orsay on the 12th May.

Italy.

CONTINUUM OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



Italy. This is the "President Warfield", a ship with an estimated capacity of approximately 2,000: the arrival of this number of illegal immigrants in Palestine would gravely endanger the peace of that country and of the Middle East. The ship's departure was considerably delayed at our instance by the Italian authorities and she was eventually given coastwise clearance only. May I ask you to give your most sympathetic consideration to the representations which you will have received from His Majesty's Embassy with regard to the control of this vessel?

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic. These people are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

I am sure that we can count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest Bevin*

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*Draft* J.G.S.B.

Belgian M.F.A.  
Netherlands M.F.A.

(From Secretary of  
State)

*Western Dept.*

*J.W.  
17.6.*

*M3*

*24/vi*

OUT FILE

June, 1947.

PERSONAL

*+ Oep/ce*

You will, I am sure, be aware of the grave concern with which my colleagues and I view the continued operation of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic into Palestine. The matter is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and the Middle East. H.M. Ambassador has been in close touch with the Belgian authorities on this subject and Netherlands. I should now like to convey to you personally an expression of my appreciation of the help that your Government have been able to give us in this matter.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity <sup>by A.</sup> M. Lie has given to Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers/

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May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Belgian authorities in stopping the Netherlands unauthorised departure of Jewish illegal immigrants ~~ships~~ and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

JB June 25

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

[illegible]

OUT FILE

34

27th June, 1947.

No. E 5001/48/G.  
CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

Dear Monsieur Spaak,

You will, I am sure, be aware of the grave concern with which my colleagues and I view the continued operation of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic into Palestine. The matter is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and the Middle East. His Majesty's Ambassador has been in close touch with the Belgian authorities on this subject and I should now like to convey to you personally an expression of my appreciation of the help that your Government have been able to give us in this matter.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage

the

His Excellency  
Monsieur P. H. Spaak.

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the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Belgian authorities in stopping the unauthorised departure of Jewish illegal immigrants and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest Bevin*

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OUT FILE

36

27th June, 1947.

No. E 5001/48/G.  
CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

Dear Baron von Boetzelaer,

You will, I am sure, be aware of the grave concern with which my colleagues and I view the continued operation of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic into Palestine. The matter is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and the Middle East. His Majesty's Ambassador has been in close touch with the Netherlands authorities on this subject and I should now like to convey to you personally an expression of my appreciation of the help that your Government have been able to give us in this matter.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews

attempting

His Excellency  
Baron C.G.W.H. von Boetzelaer.

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attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Netherlands authorities in stopping the unauthorised departure of Jewish illegal immigrants and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest Bevin*

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J. G. S. B.

Draft. *DF*  
Italian Minister  
for Foreign  
Affairs.

(From Secretary  
of State)

*Italian Section*  
*18th 1946*

*MB*  
*24/v.*

PERSONAL

June, 1947.

During recent weeks H.M. Ambassador and his staff have, I know, been in constant touch with the Italian authorities with a view to concerting measures to prevent the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic from Italy to Palestine and Sir Noel Charles will have explained to you the grave concern with which my colleagues and I view this traffic. I would now like to convey to you an expression of my personal appreciation of the co-operation of the Italian authorities in preventing the traffic and an assurance that we attach the greatest importance to the continued vigilance of the Italian authorities in preventing the traffic.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of

Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Mr. *Trugge* has given to *Sir A.* Cadogan's note to him, asking/

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asking that all the strictest precautions be taken through their territories from their ports to enter Palestine and the activities of the traffic, who are means of exerting the Government of Palestine the future of that country by the United Nations.

I recently a inform you that w difficulties of t dealing with the country and that British Zone of A doing everything authorised movements frontier with Ita in this matter a *for our part* we are prepared to any further burden Italian Government our existing co-operation the illicit departure visas of destination Palestine illegally of ships destined



34

asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

I recently asked Sir Noel Charles to inform you that we fully understood the difficulties of the Italian Government in dealing with the refugee problem in their country and that the authorities of the British Zone of Austria were for their part doing everything possible to control unauthorised movement across their common frontier with Italy. I can assure you that in this matter and in all other refugee questions ~~for our part~~ we are prepared to do all we can to spare Italy any further burdens. Meanwhile we look to the Italian Government to maintain and strengthen our existing co-operation in measures to prevent the illicit departure of groups without proper visas of destination intending to enter Palestine illegally and the fitting out and bunkering of ships destined for the illegal immigrant traffic.

LB June 25

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OUT FILE  
27th June, 1947.

No. E 5001/48/G.  
CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

Dear Count Sforza,

During recent weeks His Majesty's Ambassador and his staff have, I know, been in constant touch with the Italian authorities with a view to concerting measures to prevent the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic from Italy to Palestine and Sir Noel Charles will have explained to you the grave concern with which my colleagues and I view this traffic. I would now like to convey to you an expression of my personal appreciation of the co-operation of the Italian authorities and an assurance that we attach the greatest importance to their continued vigilance in preventing the traffic.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the

strictest

His Excellency  
Count Carlo Sforza.

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Yours sincerely,

Ernest Revin

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J. G. S. B.  
Draft.

Swedish M. F. A.  
Danish M. F. A.  
Portuguese M. F. A.

(From Secretary  
of State)

6.4.47/17/6  
Northern Dept.  
Western Dept.

MJ  
24/6

OUT FILE + 10 copies

PERSONAL

June, 1947.

You will, I think, be aware of the importance which H.M.G. attach to preventing the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic to Palestine. The organisers of this traffic are at present making special efforts to send illegal immigrants to Palestine, with a view to forestalling a decision by the United Nations on immigration into that country, and the issue is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and of the Middle East.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman, calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity <sup>which Mr. Trygve</sup> Mr. Lie has given <sup>SIA</sup> to Padogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish/

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Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Swedish authorities in stopping the Danish Portuguese ~~unauthorised departure of Jewish illegal immigrants~~ ships and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

JB June 25

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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No. E 5001/4  
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Dear Mr

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His Excellen  
Monsieu

44  
OUT FILE

27th June, 1947.

No. E 5001/48/G.  
CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

Dear Monsieur Unden,

You will, I think, be aware of the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to preventing the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic to Palestine. The organisers of this traffic are at present making special efforts to send illegal immigrants to Palestine, with a view to forestalling a decision by the United Nations on immigration into that country, and the issue is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and of the Middle East.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman, calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic,

who

His Excellency  
Monsieur Osten Unden.

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45

Yours sincerely,

Ernest Bevin

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Reference: **FO 371** / **51811**

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46

27th June, 1947.

No. E 5001/48/G.

CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

Dear Monsieur Rasmussen,

You will, I think, be aware of the importance which His Majesty's Government attach to preventing the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic to Palestine. The organisers of this traffic are at present making special efforts to send illegal immigrants to Palestine, with a view to forestalling a decision by the United Nations on immigration into that country, and the issue is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and of the Middle East.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman, calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are

using

His Excellency  
Monsieur Gustav Rasmussen.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**



47

using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Danish authorities in stopping the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest Bevin*

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Reference: FO 371/61811					

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3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S. NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry  
No. 25001/48/g.

~~TOP SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~  
Confidential.  
~~RESTRICTED~~  
~~SECRET~~

J. G. S. B.  
*Drafts*  
Portuguese M. F. A.

(From Secretary  
of State)

[N.B. Mention of  
the United Nations  
has been omitted  
at the suggestion  
of Western Dept.,  
who point out  
that the Portu-  
guese are touchy  
at not being  
included and  
would react  
better to a  
simple request.]

*M.B.*  
24/vi

PERSONAL

27 June, 1947.

+O *ephe*

You will, I am sure, be aware of  
the grave concern with which my colleagues  
and I view the continued operation of  
the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic  
into Palestine. The matter is one which  
is vital to the peace of Palestine and  
the Middle East. H.M. Ambassador has  
been in close touch with the Portuguese  
authorities on this subject and I should  
now like to convey to you personally an  
expression of my appreciation of the  
help that your Government have been able  
to give us in this matter.

*continued*  
May we count upon the assistance  
of your Government in preventing the  
situation in Palestine from deteriorating  
still further as a result of the continued  
flow of illegal immigrants? We shall  
in particular value the co-operation of  
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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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the Portuguese authorities in stopping the fitting out and bunkering of ships destined for or engaged in this illegal traffic.

JB June 25

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50  
OUT FILE

27th June, 1947.

No. E 5001/48/G.  
CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

Dear Dr. Salazar,

You will, I am sure, be aware of the grave concern with which my colleagues and I view the continued operation of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic into Palestine. The matter is one which is vital to the peace of Palestine and the Middle East. His Majesty's Ambassador has been in close touch with the Portuguese authorities on this subject and I should now like to convey to you personally an expression of my appreciation of the help that your Government have been able to give us in this matter.

May we count upon the continued assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Portuguese authorities in stopping the fitting out and bunkering of ships destined for or engaged in this illegal traffic.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest Bevin*

His Excellency  
Dr. António de Oliveira Salazar.

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Registry No. 25001/48/g.

TOP SECRET  
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SECRET

J.G.S.B.

Draft  
Greek Minister for  
Foreign Affairs.

(From Secretary  
of State)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

21.11/6  
Southern Dept.

M.B.  
24/vi

OUT FILE 70cp/Sept June, 1947.

PERSONAL

H.M. Ambassador will have explained to you the importance which my colleagues and I attach to the prevention of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic to Palestine, but I would like to express to you personally the <sup>vital</sup> ~~great~~ *interest which we have in* ~~importance which we attach to~~ this matter and our appreciation of the measures which the Greek Government have been able to take within their own territory to prevent the traffic. *issue is a crucial one*  
The ~~matter is one which is vital~~ for the peace of Palestine and of the whole Middle East.

It is, however, an unfortunate fact that a number of Greek nationals have for some time been engaged in furnishing the shipping which is a first essential of this illegal traffic. I trust that the Greek Government will now be able to take urgent steps to curb the activities of these agents, who are making large profits out of the distress of Jewish refugees and the desire of extreme Zionist elements to force the hand of the mandatory Power in Palestine, pending a decision by the United Nations.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General/

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General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity <sup>which Mr. Trygve</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>Sw. A.</sup> given to Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Greek authorities in stopping the unauthorised departure of Jewish illegal immigrants ~~ships~~ and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

JB June 25

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUT FILE

No. E 5001/48/G.  
CONFIDENTIAL  
PERSONAL

27th June, 1947.

Dear Monsieur Tsaldaris,

His Majesty's Ambassador will have explained to you the importance which my colleagues and I attach to the prevention of the Jewish illegal immigrant traffic to Palestine, but I would like to express to you personally the vital interest which we have in this matter and our appreciation of the measures which the Greek Government have been able to take within their own territory to prevent the traffic. The issue is a crucial one for the peace of Palestine and of the whole Middle East.

It is, however, an unfortunate fact that a number of Greek nationals have for some time been engaged in furnishing the shipping which is a first essential of this illegal traffic. I trust that the Greek Government will now be able to take urgent steps to curb the activities of these agents, who are making large profits out of the distress of Jewish refugees and the desire of extreme Zionist elements to force the hand of the mandatory Power in Palestine, pending a decision by the United Nations.

We have received signal support in our efforts to check the illegal immigrant traffic in the recent statement of President Truman calling the attention of the American people to the resolution recently adopted by the United

Nations

His Excellency  
Monsieur Konstantinos Tsaldaris.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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54

Nations Assembly requesting all Governments and peoples to refrain, pending action by the General Assembly on the report of the Special Committee on Palestine, from the threat or use of force, or any other action which might create an atmosphere prejudicial to an early settlement of the question of Palestine. We hope also that the publicity which Mr. Trygve Lie has given to Sir Alexander Cadogan's note to him, asking that all Member States should take the strictest precautions to prevent the transit through their territory and the departure from their ports of Jews attempting to enter Palestine illegally, will discourage the activities of the organisers of this traffic, who are using Jewish refugees as a means of exerting political pressure on the Government of Palestine at a moment when the future of that country is under consideration by the United Nations.

May we count upon the assistance of your Government in preventing the situation in Palestine from deteriorating still further as a result of the continued flow of illegal immigrants? We shall in particular value the co-operation of the Greek authorities in stopping the unauthorised departure of Jewish illegal immigrants and the fitting out and bunkering of ships engaged in the traffic.

Yours sincerely,

*Ernest Bevin.*

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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1947

PALESTINE

12 JUN

Registry  
Number

E 5012/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Rome

Dated

234.

Received  
in Registry

14 June 1947

12

Last Paper.

5001

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action  
completed.)

48/6 12/6

(Index.)

20/1/48

Next Paper.

5015

Illegal Immigration.  
 Transmich copy of letter to Vittorio  
 Roppi, enclosing list of measures  
 to be taken for the prevention  
 of Illegal Immigration.

(Minutes.)

JB June 12

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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234.

325/11/47

*British Embassy,*

*Rome,*

4th June , 1947.

*Reference to previous despatch :*

From Foreign Office :  
To

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.

Subject.

Copy of letter from Mr. Ward to  
Ministro Vittorio Zoppi, dated  
30th May, 1947

Illegal Jewish activities.

List of measures taken for  
combatting illegal transport  
into Palestine.

(13191) Wt.42998/3052 5,000 1/40 A.& E.W.Ltd. **Gp.685**

E 5012

12 JUN

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FO 371 61811

57  
May 30th, 1947.

SECRET.

PERSONAL.

325/111/47.

You will remember that when I called on you on 23rd May I told you that my Ambassador thought that it might be possible to agree on a standard list of measures which the Italian authorities would apply, appropriate to the circumstances of each case, when they learned or were informed of the names of ships suspected of engaging in illegal transport of persons from Italy to Palestine. I said that the Ambassador wished to discuss this idea with Signor Frasoni but before doing so had wished me to ascertain your opinion.

After I had mentioned the sort of measures which the Ambassador had in mind, you replied that, while you could not forecast the reactions of the interested Italian departments, you would like to receive a written preliminary list of the sort of standard measures which we had in mind. I accordingly now enclose such a list.

I should be most grateful if you could ask Signor Frasoni to let the Ambassador know when he would be ready to discuss the matter, which is of course urgent as unfortunately there are many of these "suspect" ships in or near Italian waters at the present time.

J.G. Ward.

Ministro Vittorio Zoppi,  
Ministero degli Affari Esteri,  
Palazzo Chigi,

Roma.

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Reference: FO 371/61811					

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SECRET.

58

SUSPECT SHIPS

Possible standard measures.

1. Close scrutiny of ships' papers to establish real intentions.
2. Examination of travel documents of any passengers.
3. Control that master and crew have proper qualifications (Certificates, etc.,)
4. Safety of life at sea; strict inspection of vessel as provided in International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (1929) and International Convention respecting load lines (1930).
5. Sanitary inspection of ship and medical inspection of crew and passengers.
6. Return to shore and prosecution of passengers found to have embarked in contravention of Italian law.
7. Denial of facilities for oil or coal bunkering.
8. Cancellation of registration of any Italian-flag ships involved in this traffic.
9. Full police control of areas known to be, or suspected of being, used for illegal embarkation.
10. Arrest of vehicles irrespective of actual or apparent ownership found to be transporting persons for illegal embarkation.

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Class ..... 371 .....  
Piece ..... 61811 .....

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E6015/48/3

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

**Next**

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316

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E 5016  
12 JUN

59

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 5016/48/31

FROM

Embassy

No.

Paris

Dated

494

Received in Registry

5, June 1947  
12

Illegal Immigration.

Refers to despatch 589 (E 7013/48/31)  
transmits copy of letter to the Borquet  
of June 5, on the control of illegal  
immigration traffic to Palestine.

Last Paper.

5015

References.

(Minutes.)

Copy to  
my transport } usual  
names  
June 12

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(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham C.O.  
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Wood M/Trans  
June 13

(Action completed.)

9/16/47

(Index.)

10/16/47

Next Paper.

5018

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Reference: FO 371/61811



497. ✓

(72/292/47)

E 60

HIS Majesty's **Ambassador** at **Paris**  
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A.  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned  
documents.

British... **Embassy.**.....  
                  **Paris.**.....

E 5016

5th June 1947.

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. Despatch No. 589 (E3013/48/31) Res. Imm.  
of 10th May 1947 Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter to M. Bousquet from Mr. Ashley Clarke of 5th June 1947.	Control of illegal Jewish immigration traffic to Palestine.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

(72/292/47)

5th June 1947.

61

You may remember that when we were discussing the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, at our meeting on May 29th, I mentioned to you also the International Load Line Convention.

It occurs to me that the attached memorandum, which is based on thought which has been given in London to the problem of using these Conventions for the control of the illegal Jewish immigration traffic to Palestine, may conceivably be of use to you in connection with the measures which you are already applying under the two Conventions and under your own legislation of 1933 concerning safety of life at sea.

Paragraph 3 of the memorandum suggests action which might well be taken in respect of the "Bruna", repairs to which, as Monsieur Vasse has been informed, were completed on the 21st May.

H. ASHLEY CLARKE.

Monsieur Beusquet,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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USE WHICH CAN BE MADE OF THE PROVISIONS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE  
AT SEA 1929, AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION RESPECTING  
LOAD LINES 1930, IN HOLDING UP SHIPS SUSPECTED OF COMPLY-  
ING WITH THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TRAFFIC TO PALESTINE.

1. It will greatly assist His Majesty's Government in their efforts to prevent illegal immigration into Palestine if the vessels which are being used for this traffic can be held up at the ports at which they are waiting to embark passengers. Even a short delay is of assistance to His Majesty's Government, though, of course, the longer a vessel can be immobilised the better. Many of these vessels are quite unseaworthy and the normal practice of the organisers of the traffic is to overload the limited amount of tonnage they possess in order to carry the maximum number of illegal immigrants to Palestine; and although there are no provisions in the two Conventions above mentioned relating specifically to the overcrowding of vessels, an overcrowded vessel is likely to fail to comply with the safety requirements laid down in the Conventions, if, for instance, the life saving apparatus falls short of the standard laid down in the Conventions for all the passengers and crew. It may therefore be taken for granted that, for almost every vessel in which illegal immigrants embark, the provisions of one or both of the above mentioned Conventions are violated.

2. In accordance with the provisions of Article I of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention whereby contracting governments undertake to take all steps necessary to give the Convention full and complete effect, and of Article I of the Load Lines Convention which contains a similar undertaking, signatory nations are able to and should exercise the rights of control conferred upon them by articles 54 and 16 of the respective Conventions, and generally see that the precautions contemplated by the Conventions are observed.

3. As regards the obligations of the States parties to the 1929 Convention in respect of foreign ships in their ports, regulation XXII of Annex I of the Convention provides, inter alia, that whenever an accident occurs or a defect is discovered which affects the safety of a ship to which the Convention applies or the efficiency of its life-saving equipment, or whenever any important repairs or renewals are made to such a ship, it shall be subjected to survey to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Convention. By Article 10 of the Convention each contracting State binds itself to take measures to apply and enforce the principle of the above regulation and to secure that, from the point of view of safety of life, the ship is fit for the service for which it is intended. The occasion for the survey contemplated by regulation XXII might of course arise when a ship is in a foreign State bound by the Convention and in such an event the Convention lays on that State the obligation to ensure that the ship does not put to sea unless the requirements of the Convention are complied with. The Load Lines Convention of 1930 gives a limited right of control under Article 10 similar to that given by Article 54 of the 1929 Safety at Sea Convention.

UNITED KINGDOM PROCEDURE.

4. The following account of the various means whereby a suspect ship could legally or administratively be detained in a United Kingdom port may be of interest.

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63.

- (a) Safety at Sea
- (b) Load Line
- (c) Passenger
- (d) Wireless (for ships of 1600 tons)
- (e) Registry, and
- (f) Port Health Authorities.

The first two certificates are required only for ships registered in countries that have subscribed to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. A delay can be imposed during inspection of the ship by the competent authority, which in the case of the United Kingdom is the Surveyors of the Board of Trade.

6. The Passenger Certificate shows the maximum number of passengers which the ship is permitted to carry. The Port Authorities can prevent a ship sailing if the number of passengers actually on board exceeds this figure.

7. The Port Health Authorities have wide powers of inspection and effective action can most easily be taken by them. If the ship is found to be verminous or if its ventilation or lavatories are defective, the ship may be detained until these defects are remedied. The Port Health Authorities also, possess certain rights, under the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, of inspecting passengers for infectious diseases.

8. Great inconvenience can of course be caused to any ship suspected of complicity in the illegal immigration traffic if the Port authorities deny water, bunkers, pilotage and tugs.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

317

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64

E 5018

12 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry  
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received  
in Registry

E 5018/48/31

Embassy

Athens

226

3 Serial  
12

Illegal Immigration

Refers to despatch 280 (E 5018/48/31) transmits  
copy of note N 248 to Hellenic Govt for  
Foreign Affairs, re control of illegal  
immigrant traffic to Palestine.

Last Paper.

5-016

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ Higham. 80.  
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Serial 17

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completed)

5-016  
12

(Index.)

12  
12

Next Paper.

5-074

(Minutes.)

Copy to  
Cath. H. } usual names  
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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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No. 236  
226

Secret

65

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Athens  
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A.  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned  
documents.

British.....Embassy.....

.....Athens.....

E 5018

3rd June, 1947...

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office Despatch No.280 (E 3013/48/31)

Description of Enclosure. of 10th May, 1947.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Note No.248 (46/164/47) to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, dated 3rd June, 1947.	Illegal Jewish immigrants into Palestine.

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Reference:

FO 371/61811

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BRITISH EMBASSY

ATHENS.

No. 248,  
15/12/47.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and have the honour to refer to the Note No. 127 of the 1st April which Sir Clifford Norton addressed to His Excellency Monsieur Tsaldaris, drawing attention to the very grave embarrassment which was being caused to His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine by the flow from Europe of illegal Jewish immigrants into Palestine, and to Monsieur Tsaldaris's reply No. 22834 of the 3rd April in which he was good enough to promise the co-operation of all departments of the Royal Hellenic Government in this matter.

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of Sir Clifford Norton's Note referred to above His Majesty's Embassy now have the honour, on instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to suggest to the Royal Hellenic Government ways and means by which effective action may be taken to hamper the activities of the vessels concerned in the immigration traffic. In particular His Majesty's Embassy have been instructed to point out that it will on occasion be possible to take action against a vessel in a Greek port under the provisions of the International Convention of the Safety of Life at Sea, 1929, and the International Convention respecting Load Lines, 1930.

3. It will greatly assist His Majesty's Government in their efforts to prevent illegal immigration into Palestine if the vessels which are being used for this traffic can be held up at any ports into which they may put. Even a short delay is of assistance to His Majesty's Government although, of course, the longer the vessel can be immobilised the better. As the Royal Government will be aware, many of these vessels are quite unseaworthy and the normal practice of the organisers of the traffic is to overload the limited amount of tonnage they possess in order to carry the maximum number of illegal immigrants; although there are no provisions in the two Conventions mentioned above which relate specifically to the overcrowding of vessels, an overcrowded vessel is likely to fail to comply with the safety requirements laid down in the Conventions. For example the lifesaving apparatus may fall short of the standard laid down for all the passengers and the crew. It may therefore be taken for granted that in the case of almost every vessel in which illegal immigrants embark the provisions of one or both of the Conventions mentioned above are violated.

4. His Majesty's Embassy have been instructed to request the Royal Government to exercise the utmost care in order to carry out all their obligations under the two Conventions of 1929 and 1930, both as they affect Greek ships and vessels under a foreign flag. In respect of the latter, His Majesty's Embassy have been directed to draw attention to the rights of control which may be exercised by the Royal Government under Article 54 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and under Article 16 of the International Convention respecting Load Lines in order that the Royal Government may fulfil their obligations under Article I of each Convention to give that Convention full and complete effect.

5. In particular His Majesty's Government desire to remind the Royal Government that Regulation XXII of Annex I of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea provides *inter alia* that whenever an accident occurs or a defect is discovered which affects the safety of a ship to which the Convention applies or the efficiency of its life saving equipment, or whenever any important repairs or renewals are made to such a ship, it shall be subject to a survey to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Convention. By Article 10 of the Convention each contracting state binds itself to take measures to apply and enforce the principle of the

3rd June 1947.

/above

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His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

3rd June, 1947.

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Class ..... *371* .....

Piece ..... *61811* .....

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Department of origin under Section 3 (4)  
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*E5035/48/31*

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1

Registry Number *E5*

FROM *d.*

No. *16*

Dated

Received in Registry

Last Page

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Reference

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(How disposed)

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(Action completed.)

*7/60/5/7*

Next Page

*5035*



220

E

68

E 5049

13 JUN

1547

PALESTINE

Registry  
Number

E 5049/48/31

FROM

A. K. R.

No.

New York.

Dated

162.

Received  
in Registry

7 June 1947

18

Illegal Immigration  
Refers to letter 1640 (E 4669/48/31)  
transmits copy of letter from Mr. Rennie  
Re of June 5 enclosing copy of circular  
note to U.N. members, re Illegal Immigration.

Last Paper.

5035

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/60.

June 18

(Action  
completed.)

7/60/5/1

(Index.)

18/60/4/5

Next Paper.

5051

(Minutes.)

Copy/Co.

We are mentioning this  
in the SIS's letter to Foreign  
Ministers about illegal immigration.

News Dept.

Inf. Policy Dept.

H.S. Rennie  
June 17

The substance of this  
letter was made public at the same  
time as the text of our letter to the  
Secretary General.

House.  
(P. Fellows) 19/6

15/6/46

We have not yet seen any replies to  
the Secretary General's note. Have there been  
any which could be satisfactorily quoted?

R. Rennie 25/6

Now please see E 5641, containing  
a summary of replies, which has already  
been marked to you.

Wt. 24772/717 17865 10/38 F.O.I.  
Inf. Policy Dept. (Mr. Rennie) 15/6/46 P.T.O.

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Reference: FO 371/61811

In-P.P.

In-P.P. P'stine Gl 1201 23/6.

B.O. Vol 1394 28/6

4/7

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### Reference.

FO 371 61811

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E 69

New York.

E 5049

New York.

E 4669/... 12th June 1947....

Reference to previous correspondence:

**INDEXED**

*Description of Enclosure.*

**Subject.**

• Illegal Immigration  
into Palestine.

Copy sent to W'ton  
Jerusalem

3479A [31211] (8)

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Reference:

**FO 371 / 61811**

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193/17/47

70

COPY.

UNITED NATIONS, LAKE SUCCESS, New York.

5th June, 1947.

108-14-6/JFC

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 40 (193/14/47) dated 23 May 1947, concerning illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine.

I wish to inform you that copies of your letter have been forwarded to the Members of the United Nations. I enclose for your information a copy of my letter of transmittal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(SGD) TRYGVE LIE.

Secretary-General.

The Right Hon. Sir Alexander Cadogan, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Permanent Representative of the U.K. to the United Nations,  
Empire State Building,  
New York.

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193/17/47

71

COPY

Reference 801-14-6/DP

29 May 1947.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from His Excellency the Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations, and shall be grateful if you will be so good as to bring it to the attention of your Government.

I hope that consideration will be given to this letter in the light of the resolution on the Palestine question adopted on 15 May 1947 by the General Assembly. I should therefore appreciate your informing me of the receipt of this letter, as well as of any action which your Government may be able to take on this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Trygve Lie  
Secretary-General

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72  
Cypher (O.T.P.)

INWARD TELEGRAM

5049 48 11

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)  
TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd June, 1947.  
R. 24th " " 06.30 hrs. **INDEXED**

No. 1201 Secret.

Following for Martin from Gurney. Begins.

We have seen Press references to letter circulated to members of the United Nations by Trygve Lie at the request of His Majesty's Government, seeking their co-operation in stopping illegal immigration into Palestine. It would be useful to know what replies have been received from those States who are represented on the United Nations Committee in Palestine. For example, favourable reply said to have been made by Guatemala appears to be inconsistent with the general attitude of the Guatemalan Member of the Committee. Ends.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. Beeley.

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Cypher



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**OUTWARD TELEGRAM**

73  
P.W.



75872/154/6/47  
Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)  
FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 28th June, 1947. 09.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE  
No. 1394 Secret.

Your telegram No. 1201.

Following for Gurney from Martin. Begins.

Letter to which you refer is summarised in New York telegram to Foreign Office No. 1538, repeated to High Commissioner by Secretary of State as No. 1173. Understand text of United Kingdom representative's note as delivered to Secretary General was given to MacGillivray for transmission to you. Trafford Smith will bring further copies in case this has gone astray.

2. We have just seen New York telegram No. 1717 to Foreign Office (repeated by Secretary of State to High Commissioner No. 1393) containing summary of replies received by Secretary General. This is our first official notification of the nature of replies. We shall send you copies of any further reports received from New York by bag. Ends.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. H. Beeley, C.B.E.

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321

1947

Registry Number E505/48/31  
FROM  
No. 61811  
Dated 200/245/47  
Received in Registry 7 JUN 1947  
13

Last Paper.

5049

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ P.O.  
JUL 16

(Action completed) 8/6/46  
(Index) 26/7/48

Next Paper.

E5095



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74

E 5051

13 JUN

1947

PALESTINE

Registry  
Number

E5051/48/31

FROM

Kareem  
Washington

No.

Dated

200/245/44

Received  
in Registry7 June 1947  
13 -

Ben Mochli letter to Kersavists.

Refer to Vol 8/118 Saving, a comment on  
Ben Mochli's letter. According to New York  
Times. The American Jewish Labour Committee  
issued statement June 12 depicting recent  
publication of the advertisement, given  
text of statement.

Last Paper.

5049

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8/ P.O.

June 16

(Action  
completed.)

E 5051/48/31

(Index.)

20/9/48

Next Paper.

E 5095

(Minutes.)

Copy co.

N.A. Dept.

J.S. Baird  
June 12R.P.  
15/6

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Reference:

FO 371/61811

E 5051

BRITISH EMBASSY.

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

Ref: 200/245/47

7th June 1947

Dear Department,

Please refer to paragraph 18 of our telegram No.118 Saving of 24th May (Weekly Summary) about comment on Ben Hecht's letter to the terrorists.

2. According to the New York Times, the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Labour Committee issued a statement on June 4th deploring the recent publication of this advertisement. The statement said:

"A grave misunderstanding has been created in the minds of some Americans by widely published advertisements, signed by Ben Hecht, 'co-chairman, American League for a Free Palestine', in behalf of the so-called 'Palestine Resistance Fund.'

"These advertisements purport erroneously to speak for 'the Jews of America,' who are represented as endorsing the Palestine terrorists.

"These advertisements erroneously represent the only opposition to Palestinian terrorism as coming from a small group of 'respectable and wealthy Jewish personalities'. The undersigned Jewish organizations repudiate this Hecht announcement as being completely unrepresentative of general Jewish sentiment in the United States and as emanating from a small group which speaks for itself alone.

"Responsible Jewish organizations, while unceasing in their efforts to undo the evil consequences of the British White Paper policy in Palestine, condemn terrorism and are appalled at the publication of such statements as are contained in the above-mentioned advertisement.

"Terrorism is hostile to the spirit of Jewish religion and tradition."

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY

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154 731  
E5119/4819

Chancery  
to E Dept  
10/28/47  
dated 18 June  
Received 16 June

Last Paper.

E5035

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) c.o.  
Cab. 7/1. 18.7.47

(Action completed.) (Index)

25/8/46

Next Paper.

E5120



1947 154 31		Palestine EASTERN	ES119 /G 16 JUN 1947 76
ES119 /48 /G Chancery Brussels to E Dept 10/28/47 dated 18 June Received 16 June		Illegal immigration: Belgian Refr to F.O letter (E3466/48/G) Reports that matter of immigrants in "President" has been taken up with H.F.A.	
Last Paper. ES035		(Minutes.) Copy CO. } usual Cab. Off } names JD Amelb	
References.			
(Print.)			
(How disposed of.) 8) C.O. Cab. Off. 18 June			
(Action completed.) 25/8/46	(Index.) WPT		
Next Paper. ES120			

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BRITISH EMBASSY,

BRUSSELS. 16 JUN 1947

13th June 1947.  
77

2 cplse.  
Dear Department,

Your letter of 21st May (E 3755/48/G) enclosing a report by the security authorities on a shipload of illegal immigrants which arrived off Palestine in the "Guardian".

We have taken up the matter direct with the Belgian Sûreté, and the Ambassador has also taken the opportunity of mentioning the matter personally to Monsieur Spaak. We are confident that the Belgian authorities will give us all the help they can in the matter of the special train said to have originated in Belgium. Their attitude throughout in the general problem of illegal immigration traffic has been very cooperative.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,  
Foreign Office.

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E5121/48/31

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References.

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Next Paper

E5142



<p>156 1947</p> <p>E 5121 148/C</p>		<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E 5121 /G</p> <p>16 JUN 1947 78</p>
		<p>Suspect shipping</p> <p>weekly file</p> <p>June 16 -</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E 5120</p>		<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>See within</p> <p>1. Shells 232</p> <p>18 June.</p> <p>17/6</p>	
<p>References.</p>			
<p>(Print.)</p>			
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>08) 11P 16 June</p>			
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>24/6</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>6/6</p>		
<p>Next Paper.</p> <p>E 5142</p>			

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16 JUN 1947

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EN CLAIR

DEPARTMENTAL NO: 1

FROM BRUSSELS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Knatchbull Hugesson.

No: 232

D.10.30 a.m. 13th June 1947

13th June 1947

R.3.00 p.m. 13th June 1947

Repeated to High Commissioner Jerusalem

4 4 4 4

My telegram No: 227.

E/S

Weekly report,

No change.

16 JUN 1947

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157 194  
E5142148 1C

Sir N. Chatter  
Rome  
1295

Dated 13 June  
Received 16 June

Last Paper.

E5121(E49)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)  
P) 11P ✓ 16 June  
Res) Paris 1067  
Epi) Rome 1232  
P) 11P ✓ 14 June  
P) 11P ✓ 14 June  
P) 11P ✓ 14 June

(Action completed.)

25/7/46

(Index.)

W.H.

Next Paper.

15Y 194Y		Palestine EASTERN		E5742 /G 16 JUN 1947 80	
E5142148 10		Legal immigration			
Sir N. Charles Rome 1295 dated 13 June Received 16 June		Ref to Rome to 102 to Paris. Reports movements of President Warfield.			
Last Paper. E5121 (E4911)		(Minutes.) 18 June 17			
References.					
(Print.)					
(How disposed of.)					
8) 11P ✓ 16 June Tel) Paris 106Y 14 June Epio Rome 1232 Passelles 68 8) 11P ✓					
(Action completed.) 25/7/47	(Index.) 16/8/47				
Next Paper. E5143 (E518Y)					

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Reference: FO 371/61811					

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16 JUN 1947



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16 JUN 1947

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Cypher/OTP CABINET DISTRIBUTIONFROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir N. Charles

No. 1295

13th June, 1947

D. 9.04 a.m. 13th June, 1947

R. 12.05 p.m. 13th June, 1947

Repeated to Paris

ddddddd

IMMEDIATECONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No. 102 to Paris.

Jewish illegal immigration.

The President Warfield sailed on 12th June and entered French territorial waters off Toulon this morning 13th June.

2. Italian torpedo boat destroyer Sagittarius shadowed ship as far as French waters and has now returned to Italian port.

3. British naval authorities have been kept fully informed.

Please repeat to Paris as my telegram No. 113.

[Repeated to Paris]

16 JUN 1947

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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14 JUN 19

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

' Sir N. Charles  
No. 1295

D. 9.04 a.m. 13th June 1947.  
R. 12.5 p.m. 13th June 1947.

13th June 1947.

Repeated to Paris.

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IMMEDIATE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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My telegram No. 102 to Paris.

Jewish illegal immigration.

The President Warfield sailed on June 12th and entered French territorial waters off Toulon this morning June 13th.

2. Italian torpedo boat destroyer Sagittarius shadowed ship as far as French waters and has now returned to Italian port.

3. British naval authorities have been kept fully informed.

Please repeat to Paris as my telegram No. 113.

[Repeated to Paris].

14 JUN 1947

FO 371/61811

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry

No. E5142/48/9

J.G.S.B.

Draft.

H.M. Ambassador Paris. MOST IMMEDIATE

Telegram.

No. 1067

Dated. June 14.

Repeat to:

1232.  
Rome IMPORTANT  
Marseilles 68  
MOST IMM.  
Cypher

Departmental No. 1

Copies I.I.P.

83950

14 June, 1947.

Despatched 12.5 P.M.

Rome telegram No. 1295 [of June 13th: Jewish illegal immigration].

C. in C. Mediterranean is instructing a British naval vessel to take over the shadowing of the "President Warfield". You should point out to the French authorities that, owing to the co-operation of the Italian authorities, "President Warfield" has been held at Spezia for some weeks and limited to coastwise movements. As she is still involved in the illegal immigrant traffic, we expect French authorities to help us in the same way.

Emphasizing the point that the vessel only holds a certificate of seaworthiness for coastal traffic  
(See para. 3 (B) of Rome tel. No. 1082 to F.O.)

2. F.O.L.I. reports that British naval

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Reference: **FO 371 61811**

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naval vessel cannot <sup>yet</sup> locate  
President Warfield, which  
is reported to have  
entered French waters  
near Toulon. Please  
endeavour to ascertain  
ship's whereabouts urgently

*PO*  
✓ 14/6

3. I attach the <sup>very</sup> highest  
importance to stopping  
this ship, which has the  
largest capacity of any at  
present engaged in the  
traffic.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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**OUTWARD TELEGRAM**

J.G.S.B  
Cypher/OTP

*\* Cabinet \**  
DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

D.12.5 p.m. 14th June, 1947.

No.1067

14th June, 1947.

Repeated to Rome No.1232 Important  
Marseilles No.68 Most Immediate

B B B B

MOST IMMEDIATE

Rome telegram No.1295 [of June 13th: Jewish  
illegal immigration].

Commander-in Chief Mediterranean is instructing a  
British naval vessel to take over the shadowing of the  
"President Warfield". You should point out to the  
French authorities that, owing to the co-operation of  
the Italian authorities, "President Warfield" has been  
held at Spezzia for some weeks and limited to coastwise  
movement. Emphasising the point that the vessel only  
holds a certificate of seaworthiness for coastal traffic  
(See paragraph 3 (B) of Rome telegram No.1082 to Foreign  
Office) As she is still involved in the illegal immigrant  
traffic, we expect French authorities to help us in the  
same way.

2. F&O.L.I. reports that British naval vessel  
cannot yet locate "President Warfield", which is  
reported to have entered French waters near Toulon.  
Please endeavour to ascertain ship's whereabouts urgently.

3. I attach the very highest importance to stopping  
this ship, which has the largest capacity of any at present  
engaged in the traffic.

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Eastern Dept*

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J.G.S.B  
Cypher/OTP

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FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO PARIS

No: 1067

14th June 1947

D. 12.5.p.m.14th June 1947

Repeated to Rome No: 1232 Important  
Marseilles No: 68 Most Immediate

X:X:X:

MOST IMMEDIATE

Rome telegram No: 1295 [of June 13th:  
Jewish illegal immigration].

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2. F.O.L.I. reports that British naval vessel cannot yet locate "President Warfield", which is reported to have entered French waters near Toulon. Please endeavour to ascertain ship's whereabouts urgently.

3. I attach the very highest importance to stopping this ship, which has the largest capacity of any at present engaged in the traffic.

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E5142/48/0

Sir N. Rom  
Liebow  
389  
Dated 13  
Received 16

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E5142

References

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(E5144)



158 1947	Palestine EASTERN	E5143 /G 12 JUN 1947 37
E5143/48/9  Sir N. Ronald Lisbon 389 Dated 13 June Received 16 June	Suspect ship: Paducah  Refe to Lisbon 387 (E4811/48/9) Reports instructions for masses of Paducah.	
Last Paper. E5142	(Minutes.) See within	
References.	1. Lisbon 391 — 13 June  Now see E 5144 Both Referred to Mursilles	
(Print.)		
(How disposed of.) 8) 11P ✓ 16 June		
(Action completed.) 25/9/6	(Index.) W.H.	
Next Paper.  (E5144)		

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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*E5143*  
*88*  
DEPARTMENTAL No: 1

FROM LISBON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir N. Ronald  
No: 339

D. 4.30.p.m.13th June 1947

13th June 1947

R. 7.10.p.m.13th June 1947

X:X:X:

MOST IMMEDIATE

Confidential.

*7327*

Your telegram No: 333 [sic].

Master of Paducah has received the following instructions from New York.

Begins.

Proceed Bordeaux (sic ? Bordeaux) your agent Bernard Comptoir Control Commercial. Advise water fuel on [grp.undec ? hand] departure.

Ends.

I will do what I can to delay and obstruct departure.

Please inform Paris and His Majesty's Consul Bordeaux.

*E480/48/9*

14 JUN 1947

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

16 JUN 1947

FROM LISBON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir N. Ronald.  
No. 391.

D. 6.16. p.m. 13th June  
1947.

13th June 1947.

R. 8.40. p.m. 13th June  
1947.

\*\*\*\*\*

MOST IMMEDIATE

Confidential.

My telegram No. 389.

Vessel sails for Bordeaux at 1000 hours local  
time June 14th. Has taken on no (repeat no) fuel  
and no (repeat no) passengers. Captain has stated  
in cable to owners that he has "enough oil to reach  
Marseilles".

Foreign Office please inform Paris, Bordeaux,  
Gibraltar.

14 JUN 1947

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Reference: FO 371/61811					
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159 31  
~~E 5144~~ 48/9  
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Lisbon  
393

Dated 15 June  
Received 16 June

Last Paper.

E 5143

References.

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Next Paper.

E 5144 (E 523)



<p>1947</p> <p>159 31</p> <p><del>E 5144</del> / 48/G</p> <p>E 5144</p> <p>Lisbon 393</p> <p>Dated 15 June</p> <p>Received 16 June</p>		<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p> <p>E 5144 / G 90</p> <p>12 6 JUN 1947</p>
<p>Illegal immigration</p> <p>Refs addition to 391 (E 5143/48/G)</p> <p>Reports movements of Raducah.</p>		
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E 5143</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>244 Please see also E 5143</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> (C. G. CHASE) 17/6</p>	
<p>References.</p>	<p>I don't understand this.</p> <p>It may be a blund.</p> <p>10 June 17</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>See within.</p> <p>1. Lisbon 395 - 16 June</p> <p>Has been given I.T.P. distribution</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> (C. G. CHASE) 17/6</p> <p>10 June 17</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>9) 11P 16 June</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25 A/6</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>44</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p> <p>E 5174 (E 5230)</p>		

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116 JUN 1947

DEPARTMENTAL No. 1.

91

Sir N. Ronald.  
No. 595.

D. 3.09 p.m. 15th June, 1947.

15th June, 1947. R. 3.15 p.m. 15th June, 1947.

**5 5 5**

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

My telegram No. 391.

Vessel sailed 16.00 hours local time June 14th.

Following telegram from Bayonne arrived with local ship chandler this morning.

[ Begins ]

Please explain that Master should clear for Antwerp, really enter Bayonne south of Bayonne with clearing. Please cable immediately agent Duverdier, Bayonne when due. Signed Diamond.

[Ends].

As far as I know this telegram has not reached the Master so the vessel may still arrive at Berdeaux.

**Please inform Paris and Bordeaux.**

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

[Repeated to Paris and Bordeaux].

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17 JUN 1947  
92

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

FROM LISBON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir R. Ronald  
No. 395

June 16th, 1947.

D. 10.14 a.m. June 16th, 1947.

R. 1.25 p.m. June 16th, 1947.

SSSSS

IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL

My telegram No. 395.

S.S. Paducah.

According to Lisbon agents, Diamond, signatory  
of message quoted, was also concerned in voyage of  
"Trade Winds".

17 JUN 1947

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E 517



**EVERYTHING WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

E WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Minutes.

E *Inter*

This seems to deal principally 94  
with (a) The black market in coal in Italy  
(b) Illegal immigration to Palestine.

As such I think it should probably  
be entered with Eastern Dept for the  
illegal immigrant points ~~is~~ but  
Southern Dept may wish to answer.

W.B. Shepherd 12 June  
(ERD)

Eastern Dept.

E 5150

14 JUN

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For  
S.W

ORPINGTON DIVISION.

Shelleys,  
Knockholt,  
Kent.

SECRET.

9th June, 1947.

Dear Sir Orme,

I enclose a memorandum which has been written  
by a friend of mine.

As I understand the Foreign Office is now in  
charge of these matters I thought you ought to see  
what he says.

My friend thinks it would be advisable if his  
name were not mentioned, but I can assure you that he  
is a most reliable person.

If you want his name in confidence, and will ask  
your Secretary to ring me at the House of Commons on  
Tuesday, I will of course give it you.

Yours sincerely,

WALDRON SMITHERS.

pp.

NS.

N.B. Sir Waldron had to leave, to address a meeting at  
Bournemouth, before this letter was ready for  
signature.

Sir Orme Sargent, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,  
Foreign Office,  
S.W.1.

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Early in 1946 the influx into Italy of refugees mainly from Central and Eastern Europe created additional problems for the Italian authorities, and in turn, embarrassed UNRRA, whose Displaced Persons' Camps were already full.

Publicity has been given to its achievements in arranging passages for emigrants to South America. Reports have appeared in the Italian Daily newspapers and in the American daily, the "Rome American" of embarkations from Italy of Jewish families with scant possessions, on vessels, mainly motor schooners bound for Palestine. Much has been stated of the deplorable accomodation conditions and many of the reports appearing have been phrased in terms designed to arouse sympathy. The traffic has been described as a highly lucrative one for the promoters, but the source of provision of funds for most of these destitute people has been a well guarded secret kept from the public. Doubtless our Embassy in Rome has kept the Foreign Office well advised of these details and possibly the persons responsible for organising the traffic may be known to our officials.

Through 1945 through to the last quarter of 1946, the only coal and oil supplies available in Italy would be from stocks brought into the Country through the medium of Allied Commission and latterly UNRRA as distinct from the U.S. and British Military requirements indented from abroad.

In March 1946 it was reported to me that black-marketing of coal was taking place on a rather extensive scale in the area of Leghorn. Previously when attached to Coal Division, Allied Commission, Rome, I had been informed by one of the Royal Navy representatives that their coal stocks recently given to the Italian Navy for minesweeping purposes had not been accounted for satisfactorily having

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International body could not be involved in conflicts of policy of Countries, and all personnel upon joining were pledged to loyally adhere to this during their period of service. Personally, I am satisfied that the bulk of coal imports were directed and used by the Utility and Industrial undertakings intended. Testimony to the control measures adopted and the general allocation procedure has been acknowledged not only by the Italian Government but also by independent observers as well as the principal Embassies. Weaknesses in the last link of the chain of distribution is liable to occur in any Country, all the more so in a newly formed Republic having so many political parties resulting in Ministerial changes frequently having to be made.

In between the periods of reshuffling Government posts, leading State officials are disinclined to accept responsibility and take remedial measures to the standards we are accustomed in this Country. This situation has been fully exploited by unscrupulous opportunists.

At the same time there are many clear thinking Italians anxiously awaiting the re-emergence of the United Kingdom as a strong European Power and any reasonable demands submitted would be met. I cannot imagine that our Embassy is not well aware of what has taken place and any call for co-operation from the Italian authorities might be strengthened by a polite reminder that but for strong British and U.S. support at the European Coal Organisation conferences in the past Italy's chances of participating in coal supplies from the Ruhr at extremely favourable price levels would never have been achieved.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



*Draft.*

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
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Open.

P.S. 6

For  
Kurt

**NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.**

11th June 99

Thank you tell

Dr. Walter Smith has  
~~been~~ have received his letter  
of June 10 to Dr. Ome  
Singer (Dr. Ome's leave)  
~~that we have passed~~ his  
been received ~~that~~ has  
been passed ~~the~~ with  
the envelope to the  
(Impressment Dept. & the Office?)

916.

(private letter)

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

OUT FILE 100  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

E5150/48/31

11th June 1947.

Would you tell Sir Waldron Smithers that his letter of the 9th June to Sir Orme Sargent (who is on leave) has been received and has been passed with its enclosure to the appropriate department of the office?

(Sgd) J. L. Pumphrey.

Private Secretary.

The Private Secretary

to

Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P.,

66

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Reference: FO 371/61811

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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*Draft.* J.G.S.B.  
The Chancery,  
Rome.

*Italian feet first*

*S.I.*  
*20/*

OUT FILE + OC

27 June, 1947.

*Dear Chancery,*

The Admiralty are sending to the Flag Officer Liaison, Italy, a copy of a memorandum communicated to them by Sir Waldron Smithers about the black market in coal in Italy and illegal immigration to Palestine.

Sir Waldron Smithers has asked the Admiralty to investigate the matter and it may therefore be drawn to your attention by F.O.L.I. We ourselves have received a copy of Sir Waldron Smithers' note but without a request for information.

Yours ever,

Eastern Department.

*B. June 18*

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OUT FILE 102  
IT FILE  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

27th June, 1947.

(E 5150/48/31)

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Chancery,

The Admiralty are sending to the Flag Officer Liaison, Italy, a copy of a memorandum communicated to them by Sir Waldron Smithers about the black market in coal in Italy and illegal immigration to Palestine.

Sir Waldron Smithers has asked the Admiralty to investigate the matter and it may therefore be drawn to your attention by F.O.L.I. We ourselves have received a copy of Sir Waldron Smithers' note but without a request for information.

Yours ever,

EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Chancery,  
British Embassy,  
Rome.

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Reference: FO 371/61811

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Copy to: J.G.S. Beith, Esq., Foreign Office.

Whitehall 9000  
Ext. 808

Military Branch,  
Admiralty, S.W.1.

27th June, 1947.

Dear Evershed,

In connection with the Memoranda which are being prepared to illustrate the improper conduct of U.N.R.R.A. and the American Joint Distribution Committee in the illegal immigration traffic, I wonder if the enclosed Memorandum which we have received from Sir Waldron Smithers would be of any use.

2. We are asking F.O.L.I. to consult with the Embassy in Rome about this and to let us have material for a reply to Sir Waldron Smithers. If your investigations reveal information which would be of use to us for this purpose, I should be grateful if you will let me know.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter with enclosure to Higham and Beith.

Yours sincerely,

G. C. B. DODDS

Commander W. Evershed, D.S.O. R.N.  
Cabinet Office,  
S.W.1.

CCED/HPL/G.C.B. 11.

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COPY

Memorandum from Sir Waldron Smithers

Early in 1946 the influx into Italy of refugees mainly from Central and Eastern Europe created additional problems for the Italian authorities, and in turn, embarrassed UNRRA, whose Displaced Persons' Camps were already full.

In the Via San Basilio, Rome, there is the office of the American Joint Distribution Committee, an organisation set up for facilitating the re-settlement of Jews. From the outset I must make it clear that I have no evidence to associate this establishment as participating or encouraging either directly or indirectly, embarkations to Palestine. However, from time to time, rumours have been rife of the many activities of this organisation not exactly conducive to the promotion of a peaceful settlement of the Palestine problem.

Publicity has been given to its achievements in arranging passages for emigrants to South America. Reports have appeared in the Italian Daily newspapers and in the American daily, the "Rome American" of embarkations from Italy of Jewish families with scant possessions, on vessels, mainly motor schooners bound for Palestine. Much has been stated of the deplorable accommodation conditions and many of the reports appearing have been phrased in terms designed to arouse sympathy. The traffic has been described as a highly lucrative one for the promoters, but the source of provision of funds for most of these destitute people has been a well guarded secret kept from the public. Doubtless our Embassy in Rome has kept the Foreign Office well advised of these details and possibly the persons responsible for organising the traffic may be known to our officials.

It has been stated that the Sicilian and Ligurian coastal ports are the principal points of embarkation and as motor schooners are usually limited in bunker storage space, it is not unreasonable to assume that for an outward and return voyage involving some 2,000 miles, that oil fuel, galley coal and stores are shipped, or were, from stocks held in Italy.

Through 1945 to the last quarter of 1946, the only coal and oil supplies available in Italy would be from stocks brought into the Country through the medium of Allied Commission and latterly UNRRA as distinct from the U.S. and British Military requirements indented from abroad.

In March 1946 it was reported to me that black-marketing of coal was taking place on a rather extensive scale in the area of Leghorn. Previously when attached to Coal Division, Allied Commission, Rome, I had been informed by one of the Royal Navy representatives that their coal stocks recently given to the Italian Navy for minesweeping purposes had not been accounted for satisfactorily having regard to the normal rate of offtake. Consequently with this fresh complaint I had no alternative course but to request the Italian authorities to investigate and take preventive measures. It was not until the following November that a really substantial misdirection of coal was revealed. In that instance it was alleged that the coal was ex Military stocks. It was confiscated from the black market consignors but no satisfactory explanation could be obtained as to for whom it was intended, and the use to which it would have applied.

UNRRA while supervising the distribution of commodities required for relief and rehabilitation naturally did not possess sufficient personnel for "policing" stocks and overlooking their actual physical transfer to the approved consumers. It will be appreciated that with a bulk commodity such as coal which exceeded 5 million tons, that arrangements had to be made with the Italian Government to accept delivery at the various ports and distribute it according to the pre-arranged pattern of allocations decided each month in advance with UNRRA. As availabilities of coal, due to the frequent U.S. strikes, were constantly short of requirements it was not unnatural that black-marketing occurred at prices double or treble those of the officially decreed prices. Also, the low scale of both salaries and wages compared with extremely high living costs applicable to all workers including Government officials made it impossible to stamp out irregularities in distribution.

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Bunker shipments however were the responsibility of the Ministry of Marine. From that Department it was difficult on a number of occasions to obtain the fullest particulars of shipments to vessels with information as to the nature of their voyage engagements. UNRRA required this for assurance that the supplies brought into the Country were used exclusively for the benefit of the Italian economy. Because of the depleted Italian Merchant Marine the bunker coal requirements at all ports rarely exceeded 3% of the total monthly distribution programme. Although reminders were frequently necessary that information supplied was unduly late or insufficient, as all other Ministries were co-operating to the utmost, in view of the small proportion of coal involved, it was not considered appropriate taking this matter to the highest Governmental levels.

It will be appreciated that UNRRA as an International body could not be involved in conflicts of policy of Countries, and all personnel upon joining were pledged to loyally adhere to this during their period of service. Personally, I am satisfied that the bulk of coal imports were directed and used by the Utility and Industrial undertakings intended. Testimony to the control measures adopted and the general allocation procedure has been acknowledged not only by the Italian Government but also by independent observers as well as the principal Embassies. Weaknesses in the last link of the chain of distribution is liable to occur in any Country, all the more so in a newly formed Republic having so many political parties resulting in Ministerial changes frequently having to be made.

In between the periods of reshuffling Government posts, leading State officials are disinclined to accept responsibility and take remedial measures to the standards we are accustomed in this Country. This situation has been fully exploited by unscrupulous opportunists.

At the same time there are many clear thinking Italians anxiously awaiting the re-emergence of the United Kingdom as a strong European Power and any reasonable demands submitted would be met. I cannot imagine that our Embassy is not well aware of what has taken place and any call for co-operation from the Italian authorities might be strengthened by a polite reminder that but for strong British and U.S. support at the European Coal Organisation conferences in the past Italy's chances of participating in coal supplies from the Ruhr at extremely favourable price levels would never have been achieved.

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FO 371

CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

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18

1947

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Dated 4 June  
Received 14 June

### Last Paper.

E5144  
(E4909)

## References.

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**Next Paper.**



160 1947	Palestine EASTERN	ES1Y4/G 17 JUN 1947
ES1Y4/48K Athens 238 Dated 4 June Received 17 June	Illegal Immigration Ref to F.O. 61 1179 (E4361/48/C) Inc copy of Note Refsall 252 to HFA.	
Last Paper. ES144 (E4909) References. <del>E4361</del> E4361/48/C	(Minutes.) copy: C.O. } usual news M.I.5 } 19/6	
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Reference: FO 371/61811					



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FO 371/61811

109

BRITISH EMBASSY

ATHENS

No.252  
Ref:46/166/47

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to the Ministry's Note No.25432 of the 6th May concerning the vessels "Agias Trias", "Archangelos" and "Vassilakis", have the honour to state that they did not fail to request the competent British authorities to furnish all possible information concerning the three vessels in question.

His Majesty's Embassy have now been instructed to state that, in view of the number of vessels bearing the name "Agias Trias" and in view of the lack of detailed information concerning the particular vessel of this name suspected of engaging in the illegal immigration traffic, His Majesty's Government agree that no action against her is possible at the present time.

As regards the vessel "Vassilakis" the latest information available to His Majesty's Government indicates that this ship is no longer involved in these illegal activities.

His Majesty's Embassy have, however, been instructed to refer again to the case of the "Archangelos" to which His Majesty's Government attach much importance. This ship is a motor-vessel of about 450 gross registered tons and she is registered under the Greek flag at Samos No.37. Her owner is Spiridon Tipaldos, of 70 (or 72) Harilaos Street, Athens, who has leased her to Stefano D'Andria, an Italian national who was referred to in Sir Clifford Norton's Note No.127 of the 1st April as one of the principal organisers of the illegal immigration traffic. The "Archangelos" is now at Marseilles (where her agents are Ginesta and Company, also suspected of being involved in these illegal activities) and there is strong evidence that she is about to sail to embark a number of Jews. Finally, His Majesty's Embassy have the honour to enquire what action the Royal Hellenic Government have been able to take in regard to the three vessels which formed the subject of the Embassy Note No.226 of 22nd May.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

4th June 1947.

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Reference: **FO 371/61811**

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 (13191) Wt.42998/3052



17 JUN 1947

( 37/104/47 )

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

*British Embassy,*

Rome, 12th June, , 1947.

17, JUN 1947

*Reference to previous despatch :*

~~From~~ Foreign Office : Tel. No. 1210, para. 8.  
To

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>Letter to Count Sforza Minister for Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>3.6.47.</p>	<p>Illegal Jewish immigration.</p>

(13191) Wt.42998/3052 5,000 1/40 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685

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Count Car  
Minister



SECRET

British Embassy

ROME

3rd June, 1947

My dear Minister,

You will no doubt be aware from the Press that the organisers of illegal Jewish immigration to Palestine have in recent months openly announced that they are planning the emigration on a vast scale of Jews from Central and Eastern Europe. In particular you may have noticed an article to this effect appearing in the "Herald American" of 20th May, which reported that the majority of these Jews would be taken from Rumania. This is borne out by a communiqué issued in Bucharest by the Jewish democratic front, and published in the Rumanian press of 14th May, denouncing the "criminal actions of a certain faction, who will soon be identified, and who have encouraged the clandestine emigration of Jews from Rumania". The communiqué states that families have sold all their worldly possessions to leave only to find that they are penniless and abandoned in neighbouring countries. Further information in my possession confirms the accuracy of these reports.

2. There is no doubt that if those responsible should succeed against all the dictates of humanity in organising this mass migration, the majority of the Jews affected will follow the route taken by many others before, and will make for Italy, where shipping, including, in the words quoted in the "Herald American", vessels "which can be packed with as many as 7,000 souls", will attempt to embark them clandestinely for Palestine. A mass move of this sort would vastly aggravate the difficulties of preventing illegal embarkations for Palestine, and would create the greatest difficulties for our Governments. If these Jews succeeded in reaching Palestine in any numbers, the situation there would be gravely damaged, and, as is evidently the intention of those responsible for this traffic, the task of the United Nations in finding a solution of the Palestine problem would be seriously prejudiced.

3. In successive communications to this Embassy your Ministry have exposed the damage which the illegal entry of Jews is causing to Italian interests and expressed the determination of the Italian Government to do all in its power to stop this transit traffic. I am sure therefore that I need not dwell upon the importance of taking the most urgent steps to protect Italy from a further invasion of the sort. I would suggest that preventive action can only be successful by a radical improvement and strengthening of the present system of controlling entry through the northern frontier of Italy.

4. Your Ministry have on previous occasions pointed out that the limited resources of the Italian Navy and police make it difficult to guard against the clandestine embarkation of Jews from points on the long Italian coast-line. They have also emphasised that, while the Italian Government are willing to cooperate in preventing these illegal departures, it is at the same time in the national interest to reduce the numbers of refugees on Italian soil. These difficulties are fully recognised, and I have been authorised to say that His Majesty's Government much appreciate the efforts which the Italian authorities are making to stop the sea-borne traffic of Jews. But it is all the more surprising to me in view of these difficulties, that the illegal entry of Jews to Italy should still be allowed to continue on its present scale, and that more effective measures are not taken to check this evil at its source.

Count Carlo Sforza  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
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in the small "bottle-neck" of the frontier, through which these immigrants are obliged to pass, and where Italian resources are surely sufficient to the task of stopping them.

5. You will be aware that the flow of illegal immigration to Italy is concentrated in a comparatively small sector of the northern frontier. I understand that few illegal entries occur from the British zone of Austria (where the authorities have taken the strictest measures to prevent them) or from Switzerland or metropolitan France. Most of the Jews concerned, as your Ministry in fact pointed out to this Embassy in a memorandum dated 10th April, enter the province of Bolzano from the French zone of Austria. There are only two passes, i.e. the Resia and the Brenner, and one or two subsidiary valleys, which can be used for this purpose, and moreover even if the Jews succeed in eluding the frontier guards by the use of mountain tracks, they are obliged after a few miles to rejoin the main roads in order to continue their journey to the South.

6. I understand that numbers of Jews who present themselves at the frontier are daily turned back, that frontier guards in the area have been reinforced and that new road-blocks have recently been established. But in spite of such apparent precautions large groups of illegal entrants still succeed with comparative ease in getting through. Several representations on this subject have been made to the local authorities by the British Consul at Bolzano. I am informed that these illegal entrants employ the simplest devices to escape detection. For example it is reported that the vehicles which meet them and transport them to the South are seen by the guards at road-blocks to approach and to return from the frontier empty. In fact, the Jews, who board these vehicles at pre-arranged points, dismount a short distance before reaching the control posts on the main roads, make a detour round these posts on foot, and rejoin their vehicles a short distance beyond. Moreover, vehicles bearing the markings of UNRRA and the AJDC, which are employed for this traffic, are allowed to come and go unmolested, and no action is taken to confiscate them, although obviously either their markings must be forged or else their drivers are making improper use of them without any official authority.

7. This illegal immigration of Jews to Italy even at its present rate is serious enough. But unless timely and drastic action is taken to meet the threat of organised mass immigration, which I have referred to, it is clear that the situation must rapidly deteriorate. This is a matter in which the interests of our two governments most obviously coincide, and I have no hesitation therefore in urging that immediate measures be taken to render fully effective the present system of frontier control. His Majesty's Government have authorised me to say that they will strongly support any representations which the Italian Government may wish to make to the authorities in neighbouring countries with a view to controlling the movement of Jewish Displaced Persons and to coordinating the efforts of officials on both sides of the frontier to prevent illegal entry into Italy.

Believe me, my dear Minister,

Yours very sincerely

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ES176/48/G Rome 249 Dated 12 June Received 18 June		Illegal immigration Ref to Rome desp 248 (ES175/48/G) The translation of memo from HFA of 10 April 1947.	
Last Paper. ES175		(Minutes.) 24P Please see also ES175-	
References.		See in this connexion 27980/7979/3 (desp. from Vienna of June 2nd), which shows that the French Zonal authorities of Austria are doing their best. Refugee Dept.	
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HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments  
to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to  
transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

*British Embassy,*

*Rome, 12th June, 1947.*

*Reference to previous despatch:*

From Foreign Office: Ref. para. 5 of Despatch No. 248 of 11/6/47  
To

*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date.	Subject.
Translation of Memorandum from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  10th April, 1947.	Illegal Jewish immigration

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MEMORANDUM FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

10.4.47.

The Jews who continue to enter Italy in organised groups, do so mostly across our northern frontiers.

In fact the most common assembly areas are in the American zone of Austria, from which groups of Jews infiltrate into the French zone, and thence attempt the crossing into Italy over the Alpine passes.

The authorities of the French zone in Austria, whose attention has been drawn to the alarming aspects of this phenomenon, and the likelihood of its increasing with the start of the fine weather, confirm that they have adopted strict measures of control on the frontiers of the American zone, from which immigration is most frequent and systematic.

Such measures are, however, frustrated by the refusal of the Americans to take back those who succeed in crossing the line into the French zone.

Moreover it is noticeable that the American authorities, who obviously are not interested in preventing the influx of these refugees to other zones, exercise only very slight control on exit from their own. In addition, apart from UNRRA, various other welfare committees are allowed to flourish under the American occupation. These committees (which exist for the purpose) help the movement of refugees by providing them with documents, laissez-passer etc. and thus hinder the French system of control.

The net result of this state of affairs is that the French, being unable to return immigrants who succeed in crossing into their zone, tend naturally to facilitate these peoples' onward movement to Italy, which is their habitual goal. The small force of police available on the Italian side of the Northern frontier is insufficient to stop this influx.

Rome.  
10th April, 1947.

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